

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims, with amendments to independent claim 1 and cancellation of claims 16-18 and 32-53, will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. ***No new matter is introduced as a result of the following claim amendments.***

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). An electronic contact resolution method, comprising:
automatically extracting contact information from any of a plurality of file types included in a data store, said data store including at least one of word processor files, spreadsheet files, and presentation files;

wherein extracting the contact information includes automatically examining the complete contents of one or more of the files in the data store and extracting any contact information located within those contents;

maintaining a list of at least one contact entry derived from the contact information extracted from the data store;

automatically computing a weight for each entry in the list;

tracking contact information associated with the contact entry;~~and~~

automatically resolving contact entries in real time by dynamically providing specific contact entries from the maintained list based on the weight of each entry in the list;

wherein new entries are added to the list as new information enters the data store;

wherein entries are removed from the list and replaced with new entries when the list is full; and

wherein entries are assigned relative weights, and wherein new entries having weights that are at least equal to the weights of existing entries in the list are added to the list to replace the existing entries.

Claim 2 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the data store includes sent and received email.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 2 wherein the data store further includes database files.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the weight of an entry is updated dynamically based on the number of times that the entry has been used.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the weight of an entry is updated dynamically based on the time since an email using the contact data of the entry was sent.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the weight of an entry is updated dynamically based on the time since an email using the contact data of the entry was received.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the weight of an entry is updated dynamically based on the time since an item containing data matching the entry was added to the data store.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the weight of an entry is updated dynamically as new information enters the data store.

Claim 10 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein automatically resolving contact entries comprises providing a most probable match to an input.

Claim 11 (Original). The method of Claim 1 wherein automatically resolving contact entries comprises providing a most recently used match to an input.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein automatically resolving contact entries comprises providing the entry having the greatest weight where one or more entries match an input.

Claim 13 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the size of the list is constrained to improve performance of automatically resolving contact entries.

Claim 14 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the size of the list is specified by a user.

Claim 15 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the list is disabled by a user.

Claim 16-18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended). The method of claim ~~48~~ 1 wherein the new entry is not added to the list if all entries in the list have higher weights than the new entry.

Claim 20 (Original). The method of claim ~~48~~ 1 wherein an entry in the list having the lowest weight will be chosen at random and replaced with the new entry if the lowest weight of entries in the list is equal to the weight of the new entry and that weight is shared by at least two entries in the list.

Claim 21 (Original). The method of claim 16 wherein new entries are added to the list after those entries are first used.

Claim 22 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein an existing contact database is used with the maintained list for automatically resolving contact entries.

Claim 23 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the maintained list is stored in random access memory and cached in a nonvolatile storage medium.

Claim 24 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein entries are removed from the list when matching entries are added to a contact database.

Claim 25 (Original). The method of claim 15 wherein entries are not added to the list if they are already stored in a contact database.

Claim 26 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the automatically resolved contact entry is selectable by a user via a user interface.

Claim 27 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein items entering the data store are automatically scanned for contact information as the items enter the data store.

Claim 28 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein entries in the list are automatically updated as new information matching the entries enter the data store.

Claim 29 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein particular items within the data store are excluded from tracking.

Claim 30 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein email received from at least one of specific email addresses and Internet domains are excluded from tracking.

Claim 31 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the contact information of the entries includes a plurality of information elements including:

- an email address;
- a friendly name;
- a number of times that the entry has been used;
- a date the email address was last sent to;
- a date the email address was last received from; and
- a weight.

Claims 32-53 (Cancelled).